

Your Catholic Legacy



Archdiocese
of Toronto

Newsletter of the Development Office

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Your Spiritual Power of Attorney

Chances are we have all heard of a Power of Attorney for Personal Care (PAPC). It is typically drawn up for us by our lawyer, normally when we do our Will. In our PAPC we name the person(s) who will make our medical decisions should we become unable to make them ourselves due to severe illness, a serious accident or other cause. The document can also contain our views with respect to life support, artificial feeding and other medical measures, to assist the person appointed to make decisions.

And while making provisions for physical requirements are important, it is vital to ensure the proper care of our spiritual needs.

In your PAPC you can request the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick be given to you should you fall under serious illness. Your lawyer can help you draft the wording and insert the provision.

It is important to remember that such additional provisions within a PAPC are considered wishes that are normally followed but not legally binding. For this reason, you would be well advised to let your loved ones know your wishes to increase the likelihood that the provision will be followed and you will receive this Sacrament.

Why do we need the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick? Simply, it helps to strengthen people who are suffering from serious illness. The *Catechism of the Catholic*

Church (1523 and 1524): “A preparation for the final journey. If the Sacrament of Anointing the Sick is given to all who suffer from serious illness and infirmity, even more rightly is it given to those at the point of departing this life; so it is also called sacramentum exeuntium (the sacrament of the departing). The Anointing of the Sick completes our conformity to the death and Resurrection of Christ, just as Baptism began it. It completes the holy anointings that mark the whole Christian life: that of Baptism which sealed the new life in us, and that of Confirmation which strengthened us for the combat of this life. This last anointing fortifies the end of our earthly life like a solid rampart for the final struggles before entering the Father’s house.

“In addition to the Anointing of the Sick, the Church offers those who are about to leave this life the Eucharist as viaticum. Communion in the body and blood of Christ, received at this moment of “passing over” to the Father, has a particular significance and importance. It is the seed of eternal life and the power of resurrection, according to the words of the Lord: “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.” The sacrament of Christ once dead and now risen, the Eucharist is here the sacrament of passing over from death to life, from this world to the Father.”

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Power of Attorney

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In Ontario, patients have specific rights when being treated in hospitals. They must be allowed to practise their faith. The Human Rights Code prohibits discrimination based on creed and physicians must comply with the Code when making medical decisions and providing services. Patients also have the right to meet with priests or other religious leaders.

When arriving at hospital, patients or their family decision makers should make their spiritual care needs known. Hospitals generally have a chaplain or religious care department, which can help families arrange a visit by a priest. The main thing to remember is that attending to a patient's spiritual needs is not optional for a hospital. Staff are obligated to ensure proper spiritual care for you and your loved ones.

It is important that whatever spiritual instructions are contained in your PAPC are also shared with the people who are your designated decision makers. Following that, we place our trust in the Lord. As the Holy Spirit said through St. Paul in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Those are comforting words indeed.

If you would like to update your Will and/or Power of Attorney, the Archdiocese of Toronto maintains a list of lawyers in your area. Please note that our office does not endorse any individual advisor. For more information, please contact Quentin

Schesnuik or Elvira Foronda. Their contact information is on the back of this newsletter.



Singing From the Heart

St. Michael's Choir School was the home of the fifth annual Legacy Society Lunch. The Society was established as a special way to say thank you to parishioners who have included their parish or favourite Archdiocesan charity in their Will or estate plan.

At the lunch, Legacy Society members were given the rare treat of a private performance by the boys of St. Michael's Choir School. In celebration of the Choir School's 75th Anniversary, the children had just returned from a tour in Rome where they were given the privilege of singing for His Holiness, Pope Francis.

It was a special day that members of the Society will not soon forget! The boys stunned everyone attending with their talent and beauty of song...all of it focused on giving praise to God.

If you have included your parish or favourite Archdiocesan charity in your Will or estate plan and would enjoy being invited to future Legacy Society events such as the one held at the Choir School, please let the Development Office know. We would be pleased to invite you.

All members of the Legacy Society also receive:

- A hand-crafted crucifix, blessed by Thomas Cardinal Collins, the Archbishop of Toronto.
- A personal letter and certificate acknowledging your intention.

All calls are confidential. Legacy Society members have the option of remaining anonymous.

Our Faith + Our Future



The boys of St. Michael's Choir School charmed the audience.



Types of Charitable Bequests - Part II

In the last issue of our newsletter, we had an article that gave some helpful tips surrounding some of the most popular types of charitable bequests in Canada. As a follow-up to that article, below are some examples of legal wordings you can use if you are considering a charitable bequest to the Church.

It is recommended that you seek the advice of a lawyer to assist you with your Will as the legal wording of a charitable gift is extremely important. It is also a good idea to contact the Development Office to ensure that you are using the proper legal name if you are including your parish or favourite Archdiocesan charity in your Will.

For the purposes of this article, we will use The Shepherds' Trust as an example. The Shepherds' Trust is a charity of the Archdiocese of Toronto that provides for retired priests.

Example 1

Residuary Bequest – How to gift a percentage of your estate to the Church after all other obligations have been met

I direct my Trustees pay or transfer the residue of my estate to **THE SHEPHERDS' TRUST**, and I declare that the receipt of the person professing to be the Treasurer of **THE SHEPHERDS' TRUST** or other proper person to receive such sum shall be a sufficient discharge to my Trustees.

Example 2

Charitable Bequest – How to gift a specific amount to the Church for a specific purpose

I direct my Trustees to pay to **THE SHEPHERDS' TRUST** the sum of \$_____ to be used for [DESCRIPTION OF PURPOSE(S)] and I declare that the receipt of the person professing to be the Treasurer of **THE SHEPHERDS' TRUST** or other proper person to receive such sum shall be

a sufficient discharge to my Trustees and my Trustees shall be under no obligation to see that the purpose(s) expressed in this paragraph are carried out.

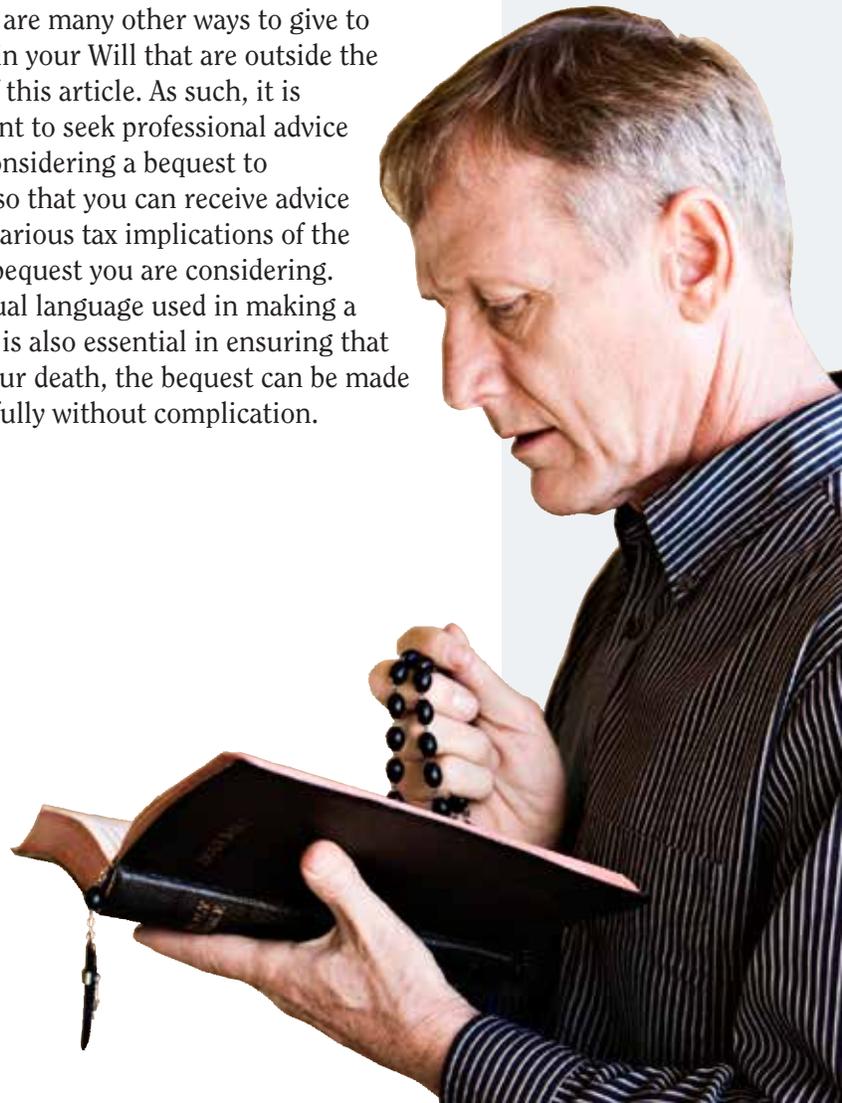
Example 3

How to gift a specific charitable bequest of shares or mutual funds

I direct my Trustees to transfer all of my shares in **ABC COMPANY** to **THE SHEPHERDS' TRUST**, and I declare that the receipt of the person professing to be the Treasurer of **THE SHEPHERDS' TRUST** or other proper person to receive such sum shall be a sufficient discharge to my Trustees.

There are many other ways to give to charity in your Will that are outside the scope of this article. As such, it is important to seek professional advice when considering a bequest to charity so that you can receive advice on the various tax implications of the type of bequest you are considering. The actual language used in making a bequest is also essential in ensuring that upon your death, the bequest can be made successfully without complication.

A special thank you to Amanda J. Stacey, a partner in the Private Client Services and Charity and Not-for-Profit groups at Miller Thomson LLP, for supplying the legal wordings.





Do You Have Securities That Have Gone Up In Value?

If you do, you can now use them to consolidate all of your church giving - including your parish offertory, special collections, and all your other favourite Archdiocesan charities such as ShareLife, The Shepherds' Trust, St. Augustine's Seminary and St. Michael's Choir School.

Giftng securities will help you save taxes because the government allows you to donate

appreciated securities directly to a Canadian charity without having to pay any capital gains tax.

And best of all, it's easy to do, in many cases requiring only a one page form. To see a sample of the form go to: www.archtoronto.org/development/stocks.htm and click on "Letter of Direction".

Ways You Can Help

Types of gifts you can give

- Bequests in a Will
- Securities (stocks, mutual funds, bonds)
- Life Insurance
- Registered Retirement Funds (RRSPs, RRIFs)
- Annuities
- In-kind gifts (coin collections, art, property)

Where can you designate your gifts?

- Your parish
- ShareLife
- The Shepherds' Trust
- St. Augustine's Seminary
- St. Michael's Choir School
- Other parts of the Church (call for details)

Our Faith + Our Future

Contact us

Your Catholic Legacy, the planned giving newsletter of the Archdiocese of Toronto, is a free publication that is produced twice a year to keep parishioners informed about issues related to estate planning and the many tax-smart and creative ways they can support their parishes and Archdiocesan charities. While all articles are researched and come from reliable sources, you should always consult an advisor before making any gift.



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